

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for increasing plant seed yield, comprising transforming a plant with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein ~~protein in~~ protein in said plant and selecting for increased expression in said plant of the nucleic acid compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid ~~a genetic modification as an indication of a plant with increased yield,~~

wherein said nucleic acid is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~

~~(i) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;~~

~~(ii) a nucleic acid sequence encoding protein of SEQ ID NO:2; and~~

~~(iii) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a metallothionein protein which is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO: 2.~~

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 1, wherein said increased seed yield comprises increased total number of seeds and/or increased total weight of seeds, when compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid ~~genetic modification.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said increased seed yield further comprises an increase in biomass.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein protein encodes a type 2 metallothionein.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 6, wherein said nucleic acid is derived from a plant.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to any one of Claims 1, 6 or 7, wherein expression of said nucleic acid encoding ~~[[a]]~~said metallothionein is driven by a constitutive promoter.

10. (Currently Amended) Plants obtainable by ~~[[a]]~~the method according to Claim 1.

Claims 11-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for increasing plant seed yield, comprising transforming a plant with an isolated nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein protein in said plant and selecting for increased plant seed yield compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid,

said nucleic acid being a nucleic acid sequence encoding protein of SEQ ID NO:2~~a genetic modification.~~

Claim 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 25, wherein said increased yield comprises increased total number of seeds and/or increased total weight of seeds, when compared to plants of the same species lacking said nucleic acid~~genetic modification.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 25, wherein said increased yield further comprises an increase in biomass.

Claim 29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid encoding a metallothionein protein encodes a type 2 metallothionein.

31. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to claim 30, wherein said nucleic acid is derived from a plant.

Claim 32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to any one of Claims 30 or 31 ~~to 32~~, wherein expression of said nucleic acid encoding ~~[[a]]~~ said metallothionein is driven by a constitutive promoter.

34. (Currently Amended) Plants obtainable by ~~[[a]]~~ the method according to Claim 25.